From: Morning Consult
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Subject: Morning Consult Tech: Week in Review & What"s Ahead
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By Sam Sabin and Sei Chong

Morning Consult Tech will be off Monday for Memorial Day. Publication of the morning newsletters and afternoon updates will resume Tuesday.

Week in Review

U.S.-China tech relations

- The Department of Commerce eased restrictions on Huawei Technologies Co. to allow the Chinese telecommunications company to purchase American goods until Aug. 19 so it can maintain existing networks and update its smartphone software, but Huawei still needs to get approval to buy U.S. software and hardware to make new products. Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei said the move did little for the company because it had already prepared for trade restrictions.

- The United States is considering a ban on sales of American technology to Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Co., Dahua Technology Co. and three other unidentified Chinese companies, according to people familiar with the matter, due to the Trump administration's concerns about each company's role in creating a repressive regime for minority Uighurs in western China. Officials are also concerned that products from Hikvision and Dahua, which both specialize in facial recognition, could be used for spying, sources said.

- President Donald Trump warned that Huawei Technologies Co. is "very dangerous" from a "security standpoint, a military standpoint" but said it was possible that the blacklisting of the company could be part of the trade negotiations with China. If there were an agreement, he told reporters, it was possible that Huawei could be "included in a trade deal."

- Dan Coats, the director of national intelligence, and officials at the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the National Counterintelligence and Security Center are briefing large U.S. technology companies, venture capitalists and educational institutions on the dangers of doing business with China, according to people organizing the meetings. Sens. Mark Warner (D-Va.), Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and others have helped facilitate the briefings, which are being held across the country, and organizers said executives have been shown classified information as a part of the events, an unusual move.

Telecommunications and wireless

- Makan Delrahim, the head of the Justice Department's antitrust division, is still considering backing the T-Mobile US Inc. and Sprint Corp. merger, despite a staff recommendation to block it, sources said. Delrahim plans to continue talks with the two companies to possibly find a way to support the deal, including additional concessions on top of those agreed upon in talks with the Federal Communications Commission, the sources said.

- FCC Chairman Ajit Pai endorsed the merger after the two companies proposed a few conditions, including selling one of their prepaid brands, to win over regulators.

Antitrust

- U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh in San Jose ruled that Qualcomm abused its

market dominance to charge unreasonable prices for its patents and suppress competition in the chip market, in a decision that sided with the Federal Trade Commission. The judge ordered Qualcomm to strip out any unfair tactics from its agreements with its partners and barred the company from signing exclusive supply agreements with smartphone makers, like Apple Inc.

- The FTC is expanding its antitrust investigation into Broadcom Inc. to determine if the chipmaker abused its market power in Wi-Fi and switch-chips sales, according to a civil investigative demand and a person familiar with the probe. Broadcom had disclosed the FTC investigation last year but called it "immaterial."

Congress

- Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), and Warner, the Senate Intelligence Committee ranking member, introduced a bill to ban the use of Huawei and ZTE Corp. technology in 5G wireless networks and offer American telecommunications firms a "supply chain trust fund" to remove the equipment from their networks.

- The Senate approved on a 97-1 vote a bill allowing the FCC to increase the fines for robocallers to as much as $10,000 per call.

- Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) introduced legislation that aims to bolster "do not track" internet features that prevent companies from collecting a user's personal data. The bill, called the Do Not Track Act, would cover all internet activity, not just what happens in internet browsers, and it would make it mandatory for companies to comply with the feature.

- Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) introduced a bill that would give national political parties more flexibility in how they fund election cybersecurity assistance for state parties and candidates. The new legislation, called the Federal Campaign Cybersecurity Assistance Act, would stop classifying election security funds from national parties to state entities as "in-kind donations," which count toward a cap on a national committee's contributions.

Amazon

- Amazon.com Inc.'s shareholders rejected two proposals pushed by civil

rights groups and activist investors regarding company sales of facial recognition technology , with one that would have required approval for sales to government agencies and another that would have established an independent review of any possible civil violations caused by the tech. Following the vote, Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-Calif.) said during a House Oversight and Reform Committee hearing on facial recognition technology that the results just mean "that it's more important that Congress acts."

- Amazon is building a device worn on the wrist that would aim to read human emotions by gauging the sound of the wearer's voice through microphones in the gadget, according to internal documents and a person familiar with the program, with the goal of being able to advise the wearer on how to effectively communicate with others.

Social media

- Manipulated videos of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), changed to make her look as if she were slurring her words, have been disseminated across social media, with one version on Facebook drawing more than 2 million views. Analyses of the altered Center for American Progress video show that the video was slowed to about 75 percent of its original speed.

- Facebook Inc. said in an updated transparency report that it removed 3 billion fake accounts between October and March, noting that the accounts were created by "unsophisticated" entities who created spam profiles that were "never considered active." In the first quarter, Facebook said it had 2.3 billion monthly active users, and the company now estimates that 5 percent of those were fake.

- Facebook has been trying to woo phone carriers and device makers into partnerships by offering to provide data like Wi-Fi and cellular network usage, alongside their past locations, interests and social groups sourced from the company's main platform, Messenger and Instagram, according to a confidential internal company document. Facebook said the data does not go beyond what it already collects for other uses.

What's Ahead

- The House and Senate are in recess this week.
- Brookings Institution will host a discussion Friday with CIA Privacy and Civil Liberties Officer Ben Huebner on transparency and secrecy of the digital age.
- The FCC's next open meeting will be June 6. Agenda items include clarification on the agency's new call-blocking rules and an amendment to the commission's rules on aviation safety.

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

05/28/2019

National Institute of Standards and Technology's privacy framework discussion draft webinar	1:00 pm
House Oversight and Reform Committee civil rights subcommittee's field hearing on the 2020 Census	2:00 pm

05/29/2019

AWE USA 2019	
AEI's discussion with Ambassador Robert Strayer on 5G network security	9:00 am
The Aspen Institute's event on the challenge of deterrence in cyberspace	12:00 pm
AT&T and Carnegie Mellon University's Privacy in the World of Internet of Things forum	1:00 pm

05/30/2019

AWE USA 2019	

ITIF's Center for Data Innovation event on artificial intelligence	10:00 am
Cato Institute's panel discussion on free trade and propserity	12:00 pm
Financial Times' event on AI and the future of work	6:00 pm

05/31/2019

AWE USA 2019

FTC Cmr. Phillips keynote at Global Antitrust Economics Conference	9:00 am
Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board's public forum on USA Freedom Act and telephone records	10:00 am
Brookings Institution's conversation with CIA's privacy and civil liberties officer	10:30 am

View full calendar

Introducing: Gen Z's Most Loved Brands

The definitive guide to which companies are winning over America's youngest generation.

Morning Consult Tech Top Reads

1) For Widespread Adoption of Electric Vehicles, Many Roadblocks Ahead
Jacqueline Toth, Morning Consult

2) Senators offer bipartisan bill to help US firms remove Huawei equipment from networks
Maggie Miller, The Hill

3) U.S. eases curbs on Huawei; founder says clampdown underestimates Chinese firm
Brenda Goh and Karen Freifeld, Reuters

4) Qualcomm's Practices Violate Antitrust Law, Judge Rules
Tripp Mickle et al., The Wall Street Journal

5) Top U.S. Tech Companies Begin to Cut Off Vital Huawei Supplies
Ian King et al., Bloomberg

6) President Trump's new immigration proposal would be terrible for tech
Rani Molla, Recode

7) Amazon Is Working on a Device That Can Read Human Emotions
Matt Day, Bloomberg

8) US spy chiefs warn tech companies on China dangers
Kiran Stacey and Demetri Sevastopulo, Financial Times

9) How San Francisco broke America's heart
Karen Heller, The Washington Post

10) An RV Camp Sprang Up Outside Google's Headquarters. Now Mountain View Wants to Ban It
Alistair Barr, Bloomberg

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